

CCAVUCC

KALOS

*Newsletter for the
Congregational Church of
Almaden Valley, UCC*

Pastor Kevin's Corner

Vision & Mission

*¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
--Jeremiah 29:11*

The first Sunday in Advent is the Sunday of hope. Even in the midst of great transition and change as my ministry to you comes to a close, I believe it is a hopeful time at the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley. At our congregational meeting during the summer many of you stood up and talked about all the things that keep you coming to church and enjoying the fellowship, worship, children, caring, and our wonderful ecumenical Joint Venture relationship with our sister church the Episcopal Church in Almaden Valley. We have had hard times and been in the dumps like many mainline Protestant churches over the last decade, but our church has bounced back and though the valleys sometimes seem deep we are once again climbing the mountain of hope.

As Advent and Christmas arrive on the scene, I hope you will keep our church family in your thoughts and prayers. Open your hearts and minds to allow God's grace to give you refreshment and renewal. If you have any brainstorm or "heartstorms" about projects or events or initiatives that our church family ought to be taking on jot them down and share them with your church council!

We recently had a wonderful church retreat led by our own Christina Hutchins in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains where we shared conversation, poetry, and even wrote songs and sang to each other! Our choirs are back in full voice and blessing our Sunday morning worship with delightful hymns and anthems. Sunday school is back in full swing and Melanie Weiner, our Christian Education director, is making Sunday mornings fun and enriching for the children. Reach out to your neighbors and invite them to join us for a Sunday worship and fellowship hour sometime or invite them to come to one of our "Phun" fellowship events led by Dave Harris and others. We are continuing our amazing spaghetti feeds that are wonderful times to enjoy some of Jim "Luigi" McAbee's secret sauce and lots of good fellowship. We have begun weekly advertising in the *Almaden Times DL*

November 2010

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church directory and have joined ECA in some full-page ads inviting people to attend our churches. My prayer for the church family is that you develop a strong vision of service to our neighbors and each other as Jesus would want you to do and that the church family finds specific mission outreach programs that live out that vision and energize the invitation to Almaden Valley and greater San Jose neighbors to join us in witnessing to God's reign! Recently the church council heard a wonderful presentation from Matt Hammer of San Jose's People Acting in Community Together (PACT) about how faith communities are joining together to solve some of the systemic problems facing our community such as lack of health insurance for children and other issues that people of faith can work together to solve. I am hoping the council will share what we learned with ECA and other small churches in the area and join together to discover how we can all make a difference in our community.

I will miss each and every one of you, but I know deep in my heart that this congregation will continue to grow in Spirit and in numbers and that you will continue to be a blessing to Almaden Valley and the greater San Jose area.

Pastor Kevin

Moderator's Note

Dear Congregational church folks,

Welcome back to the Kalos! We have reconvened our editorial staff and made plans for regular monthly circulation of our newsletter, so please feel free to send in your submissions. These will be due as always on the 15th of the month and should be submitted to kalos@avucc.org. The Kalos will now be emailed to you so that you may tap it open to read it online or print it out if you would like to hold it in your hands to read. Kalos issues will also be posted on our website, and a few hard copies will be mailed out on request.

Things are rolling along well at our church right now, and I want to highlight some of our events. First, our retreat in early October was a huge success. Thanks to Dennis Widman for organizing this day and to Lynn for helping with the logistics. Special thanks go to Christina Hutchins who facilitated the retreat, leading us through meditations and activities on Process Theology in connection with poetry. It was a special learning experience for all that also included moments of delight and laughter as we shared our own creative efforts at poetry and song.

On November 19, KGO host of "God Talk" Brent Walters is scheduled as of this writing to speak to us on the Didache, a text of Christian teachings from the First Century. A teacher in the Religious Studies Program at San Jose State, Brent has broad knowledge in biblical and post-biblical texts. This promises to be a fascinating and rewarding evening of adult education touching back into the earliest history of our Christian faith.

The spaghetti dinner! On Friday Oct 8, Jim and Kathryn McAbee served us another wonderful spaghetti dinner for fellowship and good food. It was good to be together, and we look forward to more of these special events to come. Besides the spaghetti dinners we have enjoyed several fun outings this year organized by both Dave Harris and Carolyn Crowley, including recently a trip to Quicksilver County Park for a tour of the old mines.

On council we have been discussing ways that we might expand our outreach programs. At the October meeting we had a representative from PACT, People Acting in Community Together, speak to us. Dedicated to helping churches find ways to effect positive change in their communities, PACT has helped churches with such varied projects as supporting a neighborhood to go green, working for affordable health care, and addressing bullying in high schools. PACT is a paid service organization, so we would pay dues and in return receive help from a part-time staff person to explore ways to make an impact, possibly in joint effort with another church in the area. PACT provides an opportunity to strengthen our commitment to Christian giving at the same time that we would make CCAVUCC better known locally as a church that cares.

In terms of challenges, our finances continue to be our main problem with regular debits to our savings piling up, and eventually we will have to address that drain in serious discussion as a group to see what actions we want to take to narrow the gap. Budget is connected to membership, and for the first part of this year council put a lot into advertizing the church in the hope of recruiting new people. Though we do have new faces in church, none have appeared because of the advertizing, but rather people are finding us through our webpage, a fact that sets us thinking once again about the best way at this point to reach out for friends and members.

The annual congregational meeting on November 7 was a pleasure – revealing our challenges, but also affirming our congregational commitment to taking them on. It was a wonderful surprise and delight to have Gloria Dunlap volunteer for the position of vice moderator for 2011. Thank you, Gloria! Now all of the officer positions and council seats are filled, and we look forward to productive year under the leadership of Kathryn McAbee.

I want to thank you once again for allowing me to serve as your moderator this year. In January I begin a year as president of the JV Board, a new experience for me and one that will put me on yet another learning curve!

My best to all of you through the holiday season as we look forward to a new year.

Sincerely,

Sue Scaff
Moderator

Treasurer's Cubicle

On 12 October the Council received the financial report for September 2010. Detailed results are posted outside Fellowship Hall.

Account and Fund Balances	Balance 07/30/10	Credits	Debits	Balance 8/31/10	Credits	Debits	Preliminary Balance 9/30/10
Bank Account Statement Amounts:							
Checking	14,740	7,818	-13,650	8,908	22,316	-17,651	13,573
MM	22,882	5	0	22,887	2	-15,000	7,888
CD	30,321	9	0	30,329	8	0	30,338
SmithBarney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SmithBarneyTransfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Bank Accounts	67,942	7,831	-13,650	62,124	22,326	-32,651	51,799
Fund Allocations:							
Budget income	85,601	7,063	0	92,664	7,081	0	99,745
Budget expense	-100,682	0	-12,322	-113,004	0	-16,731	-129,735
Past operating	-19,735	0	0	-19,735	0	0	-19,735
Transient funds	11	725	-403	333	15,200	-15,819	-286
Persistent funds	102,748	243	-1,125	101,866	245	-300	101,811
Total Fund Allocation	67,942	8,031	-13,850	62,124	22,526	-32,851	51,799
Budget Net	-15,082	7,063	-12,322	-20,340	7,081	-16,731	-29,990
Non-Budget Net	83,024	968	-1,528	82,463	15,445	-16,119	81,789

Income reflects offerings received through 30 September. All income and expense items are counted in the month credited or debited by the bank. With 75% of the year done, we are at 76% of budgeted expenses and 74% of budgeted income. We are following closely to the budget plan adopted in May, but our budgeted deficit is becoming tangible, and some CD's that mature in November will be cashed and moved to the checking account. Please keep current with 2010 pledges, and if your circumstances permit, prepayment of all or part of 2011 pledges will help us get through the end of the year.

The Shelter Feedings, which are not funded from our budget, are in deficit of \$454, so offerings to support that vital ministry are welcome.

David Hough

Silent Sermon

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the Pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his Pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, let him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The Pastor made himself at home and said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the Pastor to the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then it's fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and place it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

We live in the world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

*Submitted by
Dot Allfrey*

Youth News

Sunday School for preK through middle school is turning its attention to Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany with "Christmas Around the World." We need a few teachers for this session, so if you get excited about cooking, crafts, storytelling, science, or Christmas, please contact me. All curriculum and supplies are provided. The teaching commitment is only two to three weeks between now and the end of January.

High Schoolers, your Sunday School teachers, Jim and Kathryn McAbee are looking forward to meeting you and discussing what you are interested in discussing this year.

If you have questions, concerns, comments or suggestions, please contact Melanie Weiner at:

meljweiner@gmail.com

(408)268-0243 (office)

(408)307-3709 (mobile)

Starting Nov. 22, Women in Transition - A new group is forming for women who are experiencing or considering separation and/or divorce. My intention is to provide a safe environment where we can share resources, tell our stories, process our grief, and

look forward toward our healthy futures. This group is open to all women navigating these transitional times.

If this group could be a blessing to you, please contact Melanie Weiner at meljweiner@gmail.com or (408) 307-3709

Do your Christmas shopping at Church Alternative Christmas -- December 5

SYO will be selling African jewelry, beautiful carved animals, wooden salad servers and surprise items. We will also have sign-ups for people who would like to Sponsor a student attending Sunflower Junior Academy in Kenya. This is an excellent Swiss-run school, and Dr. Nilsson, the principal is working with Peter and Carol and Sandie keep us informed of the progress of each of the children.

We deal directly with the school and Dr. Nilsson is arranging for sponsors to send notes to their sponsor-child. These students are all children whom Peter has rescued from the mayhem of Southern Sudan, and we are working hard to give them a chance to be educated so that they will have a lot to give to their country when they return.
Sandie Mueller

Other outreach opportunities will be: Habitat for Humanity & Friends Outside. *Contact: Jackie Whitlock (408-268-2139 or 408-209-2734 cell)*

Carols in The California

The lights will shine bright at the California Theatre on Saturday, December 11th as Carols in the California returns for its sixth year. Conductor Elena Sharkova and the 90-voice Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale (Kevin Haley and Gwen Hacker are members), will bring a festive holiday program of music and storytelling to the California Theatre at 7:00 pm. Celebrated organist Walt Strony will master The California Theatre's mighty Wurlitzer organ. Guests also include the critically acclaimed children's choir Cantabile Youth Singers, the Chorale's own 24-voice chamber ensemble the Singers, and Symphony Silicon Valley brass musicians. The entire program is hosted by everyone's favorite San Jose historian, longtime Mercury News columnist Leigh Weimers, who will share stories that uniquely reflect the holidays in San Jose.

The program will include John Rutter's *Gloria*, compositions from Händel to Renee Clausen, carols and spirituals rooted in folk tradition, organ and brass pieces along with choral arrangements of modern holiday favorites such as *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* and *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. An audience sing-along will round out the program.

What: "Carols in The California"

When: Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San Jose, CA

Tickets: \$36, Juniors \$26 (reserved seating); Symphony Silicon Valley Box Office or 408-286-2600, Ext 23 (M-F 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) <http://www.symphonysiliconvalley.org>

EXTRA

EXTRA

EXTRA

HEAR ALL ABOUT IT!!

Our annual **CHRISTMAS DINNER** will be held on **December 18 at 6:00 PM**. This may be your last chance this year to put on your fancy clothes and enjoy a catered dinner with all the fixings. No need to bring anything except a good appetite. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall and indicate your choice of entrees. Cost is \$25 per person. Look for the alit Christmas tree signup sheet on the CCAVUCC Bulletin Board!!

Contact: Carolyn Crowley, 997-0819, nucleardavebo@yahoo.com

Jan. 28 The Annual UCC Women's Network Winter Retreat

will be held on January 28-30, 2011 at Mercy Center, Burlingame. For more details contact Phyllis Chai 226-7150.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS!

We are having family movie nights on November 12 and December 10 in the Youth Center. Movie and popcorn will be provided. All are invited to this family event. No RSVP necessary; just bring yourselves.

December 10 at 7:00 PM

Any questions? Contact Melanie Weiner at meljweiner@gmail.com or (408)307-3709.

[As you can see, the Kalos is looking a little different. Please bear with us as we transition into providing content online that can also print into something not too unpleasant to the eye! This month we are short some graphics that will be added back next month. We'll keep working on it. Ideas and suggestions always welcome. -Ed.]

Birthdays and Schedule information can be found in the mid-week e-mails. The Church Calendar is also available online at ccavucc.org.

Deadline for the December Kalos is November 15.

Please e-mail submittals to newsdesk@ccavucc.org

Questions/Comments? Please contact the editor, Kelly Yamanishi, at (408) 997-3373 or kelly.yamanishi@gmail.com

JV Calendar Link:

http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=57657336&list_by=calendar_month

CCAVUC Matrix (worship helpers schedule) link:

<http://avucc.org/docs/ccavuccmatrix.pdf>

General Lectionary Link:

<http://www.macucc.org/pages/detail/2206>

December 2010 Lectionary

http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/23FE5A4EAB094162929140B02484C3D9_lectionary-dec10.pdf

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist	29 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	30 7:00 PM Bunco Mania 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal	1 9:30 AM Quest Meeting 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 274 Meeting 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM Shalom Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30 AM ECA Thursday Morning Eucahrist 8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 282	4 8:00 AM CCAVUCC Men's Breakfast 11:00 AM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 5:00 PM Youth Recital for Flute & Piano
5 Alternate Christmas 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Youth Group Meeting	6 10:00 AM Unicorn Thrift Shop General Meeting 7:00 PM Duplicate Bridge 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	7 9:00 AM Oven and Stove Cleaning 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal	8 9:30 AM Quest Meeting 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM Shalom Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30 AM ECA Thursday Morning Eucahrist 8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 10:30 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00 PM Childrens Movie Night	11 ECA Christmas Dinner 10:00 AM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 10:00 AM Knitwit Knitting Group
12 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist	13 9:30 AM Assistants League of San Jose Board Meeting 7:00 PM Women in Transition 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	14 7:00 PM AVUCC Council Meeting 7:00 PM ECA Vestry Meeting 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal	15 9:30 AM Quest Meeting 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM Shalom Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30 AM ECA Thursday Morning Eucahrist 8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 PM Cubscout pack 282 Den 1 Meeting	18 9:00 AM Event Prep 10:00 AM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 6:00 PM AVUCC Christmas Party
19 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Joint Venture Instant Christmas Pageant 6:00 PM Youth Group Meeting	20 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	21 4:00 PM AVUCC Shelter Food Service 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM JV Board Meeting	22 9:30 AM Quest Meeting 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM Shalom Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30 AM ECA Thursday Morning Eucahrist 8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 7:15 PM Arclight Repertory Theatre Rehearsal 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	24 5:30 PM ECA Christmas Eve Eucharist 7:30 PM CCAVUCC Christmas Eve Service Lessons & Carols 10:30 PM ECA Christmas Eve Eucharist	25
26 7:30 AM ECA Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM AVUCC Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM ECA Holy Eucharist	27 Church Office Closed 7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #294 meeting	28	29 9:30 AM Quest Meeting 4:30 PM JV Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Shalom Choir Rehearsal	30 7:30 AM ECA Thursday Morning Eucahrist 8:00 AM ECA Men's Breakfast 7:30 PM ECA Choir Rehearsal	31	1